

2-28-2012

# The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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# USC prepares for federal cuts

**University spends \$280k for national lobbying**

**Thad Moore**  
TMOORE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

USC slashed its spending on lobbying the federal government during the Great Recession, but since 2009 those levels have more than doubled, according to recent filings with the Senate Office of Public Records. The university spent \$280,000 in 2011 to lobby Congress and federal agencies, which was according to those records, a jump from \$130,000 in 2009. That increase brought spending closer to its 2007 level, when

USC spent \$260,000. In recent years, the face of that lobbying has also changed, according to Steven Beckham, the university's director of federal relations. As politicians and the public focus increasingly on shrinking the federal budget, Beckham and the Podesta Group, a high-profile Washington, D.C. lobbying firm that USC hired in 2010, have worked less to advocate for specific initiatives and more to maintain research and financial aid funding. Beckham and other lobbyists used to encourage representatives to include earmarks for university projects;

now, he asks them "to make strategic cuts, rather than basic, across-the-board cuts," he said. Regardless, he expects that departments throughout the government will see smaller budgets, and that will affect USC. "I think everyone's going to have to be prepared for cuts in their areas," Beckham said. "It's going to be a shared pain kind of thing, but what you try to do is to make the case for financial aid for students. That is our future ... Second is basic research. You hope that you're doing things in promising areas, which the

LOBBYING ● 2

## Carolina Cab sees increased ridership

**High demand leaves some students without ride home**

**Kathryn Kranjc**  
KKRANJC@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The Carolina Cab program may be a step up from the rarely-used Cocky's Caravan service, but Student Government is now faced with the challenge of how to accommodate all the students wanting to use their free cab rides on weekends. In the three-week period from Jan. 12 through Jan. 29, 1,250 students used the Carolina Cab, already nearly double the amount that Cocky's Caravan received during the entire Spring 2010 semester, according to Student Body President-elect Kenny Tracy. Tracy, who served as secretary of SG's safety and transportation committee last year, said he was glad to see a positive response from student riders. "It's good that all students are seeing the benefits of this program, not just Student Government," Tracy said. Capt. Eric Grabski of USC's Department of Law and Safety, said this increase in ridership is also good news for public safety. "If there's safe transportation to get back to a residence hall on campus, the likelihood of being a victim of any other type of crime, especially a robbery, dramatically goes down," Grabski said. However, the cab system may not be large enough for all the students who want to use it. Only two cabs are in circulation from the 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Three are available from 11 p.m. to 12 p.m. and five are available from 12 a.m. to 3 a.m., the time frame in which most Five Points bars close. Lines of students begin forming on the sidewalks after midnight, and snake around the Five Points fountain as students wait for a ride home before the cab service closes for the night. Tracy said this has resulted in some students being unable to get a safe ride home because of high demand right at the end of the cabs' running time. SG has yet to put forth any ideas on how to reduce wait times for a cab, but Tracy said that would be an issue for this year's agenda. "Since we're still a fairly new program, we just have to figure out what works for us," Tracy said. Some cab users say timeliness is only one of the organizational issues with the Carolina Cab service. Third-year anthropology and women's and gender studies student Aaron Guest has been a regular patron of the Carolina Cab since it started running last year and says that the level of service has been comparatively subpar for students. Guest said he and his friends spent 15 minutes walking around Five Points trying to get their name on the list for a cab and 10 minutes waiting for a ride. He estimates he could have easily walked back to his apartment in the same amount of time. He was also miffed when a cab driver charged him \$1.25 extra to drive him to Aspyre, which is within the free service's 5-mile radius. "The constant rudeness of the taxi drivers and coordinators of Carolina Cab for the company running it are completely unbecoming of a business," Guest said. "They need to realize that we [students] are paying customers. We just pay through our activity fees. It's a good service; I think there needs to be more university involvement, like someone actually from the university should be out there to organize it."

The Carolina Cab is run through Checker Yellow Cab Company. Since September, the service has cost SG \$750 per night to run, a \$500 increase from the original price during its trial period in order to commission more cabs. The service is supported by the same portion of the student activity fee that ran Cocky's Caravan, about \$2 per student. Guest said he would happily continue to pay that amount for a semester of free cab rides, but he still feels that the current service leaves plenty of room for improvement. "Carolina Cab is a necessary evil," Guest said. "It is also probably the only direct thing many of us students see Student Government doing, as well as ... the only thing we care about."

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Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

This weekend's severe weather left only puddles on USC's campus, while tornadoes left greater damage in nearby counties.

*Tornadoes touch down in Lexington County, Carolina Alert sends no notification*

**Amanda Coyne**  
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Two tornadoes touched down within a 50-mile radius of Columbia Friday afternoon amid violent thunderstorms that downed trees and soaked students. While Carolina Alert tweeted warnings about the storm, USC's emergency notification system issued no email or text message warnings about the tornadoes, one of which was rated an EF-2, with winds topping out at 130 mph. The twister winded its way across Pelion, S.C., less than 23 miles from Columbia in neighboring Lexington County. While the storms were severe, the tornadoes in the area did not directly threaten USC's Columbia campus, and thus required no warning, according to Cpl. Vinny Bocchino of the Emergency Management Department of USC's Division of Law Enforcement and Safety. "Richland County and Lexington County are very large, and some parts are more prone to tornadoes and tornado warnings than the campus is," Bocchino said. "We only issue tornado warnings that affect the campus." While the tornado's damage was not as severe as the November twister that killed three in York County, the storm did cause some destruction. "There was some damage from the tornado; a mobile home was destroyed, there were two houses that were



Austin Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The designated perimeter around USC warranting an emergency alert encompasses areas around the medical school and past Williams-Brice stadium.

While Richland and Lexington counties both lack tornado siren systems, USC has its own; the cock crow that heard at 12:10 each Friday is its weekly test. "We'd use those [sirens] in the event of a tornado warning. They would say 'tornado warning, tornado

ALERT ● 3

## Freshman linebacker arrested in burglary

South Carolina freshman linebacker John Angelo Watley was arrested on charges of grand larceny, credit card theft and second-degree burglary Sunday, according to Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Jennifer Timmons. He is currently being held at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center on \$50,000 bond. Watley, a Lawrenceville, Ga., native, is accused of stealing more than \$2,700 in goods, including a MacBook, an iPad and money, Timmons said. Columbia Police Department officers responded to a residence on Senate Street in response to a reported burglary at 7 a.m. Sunday. When officers arrived on scene, two occupants reported seeing the suspect inside their home, Timmons said.




WATLEY

the third reported athletics arrest in the Spring semester. Defensive tackle Byron Jerideau and shortstop Tanner Lovick were arrested in January.


— Compiled by Isabelle Khurshudyan

WEATHER

Tuesday

71°  51°

Wednesday

75°  61°

MIX

INSIDE



VIEWPOINTS

Mynabirds

The Nebraska pop/soul band is gearing up for their second full-length album "Generals."

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VIEWPOINTS



VIEWPOINTS

Letters to the Editor

Roosevelt Institute of officers debate the Citizens United v. FEC decision in context of this year's election.

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SPORTS



SPORTS

Softball sweeps

The Gamecocks won three-straight games to win the Gamecock Invitational this weekend.

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# Seminar teaches benefits of sustainability

## Professionals find profit from environmental practices

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Approximately 30 small- and medium-sized businesses gathered on campus yesterday afternoon for a lesson on the potential profits of sustainability for companies.

The seminar, hosted by USC's chapter of Net Impact, featured an array of business professionals and leaders who discussed tactics and reasons for going green, including Darla Moore School of Business Dean Hildy Teegen, Duke Energy Vice President of Sustainability Shawn Heath and Cox and Dinkins Business Development Director Ted Chalgren.

"We invited guest speakers from large local companies to speak about how sustainability can make all businesses more profitable, as well as helping the environment and social sustainability," said Cooper Swanson, Corporate Responsibility Chair of the graduate Net Impact chapter.

Each speaker offered multiple suggestions for practicing sustainability. Director of Sustainable Carolina at USC Michael Koman suggested encouraging employees to get involved in company sustainability by offering prizes for goals met for office recycling and lower water and electricity use.

Duke Energy is supporting the use of less electricity by its customers and offering incentives to corporations that are working to become environmentally friendly, according to Heath. While this seems counterintuitive from a business standpoint, Heath says that it will lower the use of the production costs for Duke Energy while helping the environment.

The project was hosted by students from both the graduate and undergraduate Net Impact USC

chapters in correlation with Sustainable Midlands.

Net Impact is a national organization of business students who are interested in promoting and working in the field of sustainability. There are currently 60 undergraduate chapters throughout the country, and approximately 90 percent of the top MBA programs in the U.S. have chapters.

"Everything went off really well, and we've had a great response," said Net Impact undergraduate President Bryan Zingmark. "The plan is to build off of this seminar and create an annual event from it."

Local business owners John Guignard and Nancy Ogburn were impressed and inspired with the options for sustainability in the corporate world.

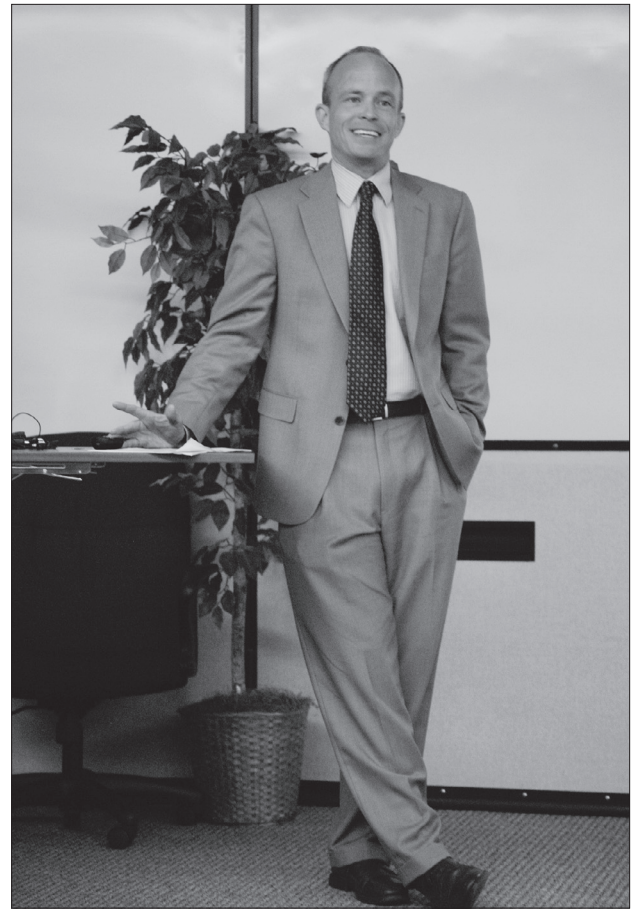
Guignard, project manager for W.B. Guimarin, is interested in saving his business more money through sustainable and environmentally friendly techniques.

"Being here today has really inspired me to make my business sustainable," Guignard said. "We can save a lot of money for our heating and air company by using the practices taught to us today. This seminar is also a great networking tool."

Ogburn, who created the commercial recycling company Tomato Palms, is concerned with how businesses overlook environmental impacts and was excited to learn that more corporations are becoming aware of the need for sustainable practices.

Corporate recycling is one of the easiest strategies for making an impact on stopping environmental depredations, according to Ogburn. Last year Tomato Palms advised a small corporation in recycling practices and helped to keep one ton of that company's waste out of landfills.

"I think it would be really beneficial if more corporations would come to this type of thing," Ogburn said. "Recycling is off the radar for a lot of companies, and the only way employees are going to be sustainable and implement sustainable systems is if the CEOs and presidents and owners of companies make them understand it's not a tree-hugger type



Nicole DeBartolo / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Sustainable Carolina Director Michael Koman was among speakers offering advice for sustainable business.**

thing. It offers profitability. The only way leaders are going to hear about this is through programs like USC's Sustainable Carolina and Sustainable Midlands."

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### LOBBYING ● Continued from 1

university is, that might lead to future economic developments."

Currently students at the Columbia campus receive a total of \$230 million in federal financial aid, Beckham said. Last year, nearly \$141.9 million in federal grants funded about 63 percent of USC's research spending, according to documents on the Office of Research's website.

Federal research funding at USC has increased 20.1 percent since 2007, growing alongside a 22.5 percent increase in the size

of the university's total budget of sponsored awards.

But according to Vice President for Research Prakash Nagarkatti, that growth could be jeopardized by planned cuts to the federal budget in 2013, which were triggered after the so-called congressional supercommittee failed to agree on a smaller budget last year.

As a result, his office has begun planning how it can maintain its budget's growth.

"Federal funding has remained flat or might start seeing a little bit of decline in 2013, so the question

is, 'How do we at USC compete with other institutions?'" Nagarkatti said. "We need to build teams of interdisciplinary scientists and engineers that can then focus on problems that are unique to our community and unique to our state."

Along those lines, the Office of Research formed the Advanced Support Program for Integration of Research Excellence — one of three "ASPIRE" programs — last year to encourage collaboration between schools, Nagarkatti said. The program provides a grant of up to \$100,000 to fund projects involving

at least two colleges or schools at the university.

Nagarkatti also suggested that USC may begin to seek out and focus on a few specialty fields, like pharmacy or biomedical engineering, rather than pursue a more generalist approach.

"We want to focus on maybe about eight or 10 niche areas that we've identified and then put resources into that," he said. "We can't do everything."

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# project CONDOM season 5 fashion show

- Special guest **Mondo Guerra** from *Project Runway Season 8* will be judging!
- The audience will also have a chance to vote on their **favorite** designs!

**Russell House Ballroom**  
Tuesday, February 28th

Doors open at **7 pm**  
Show starts at **8!**

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Last year was *standing room only* so get there early!

# Stand Up CAROLINA

Step in, speak up.

## SPRING BREAK

## REMEMBER NO MEANS NO AND PASSED OUT DOESN'T MEAN YES!

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Carolina Alert silent during severe weather

Friday’s storms, while severe in their own respects, were thankfully not as harmful as past storms in South Carolina or the now infamous tornadoes that hit Tuscaloosa, Ala., last year. However, this does not excuse the lack of attention and activity from Carolina Alert, USC’s emergency notification system.

“Time and time again, the alert system fails to do what its name implies — alert Carolina.”

Carolina Alert’s 1,188 Twitter followers received tweets about the severe thunderstorm warnings; the tornadoes didn’t even merit that, even though one came within 23

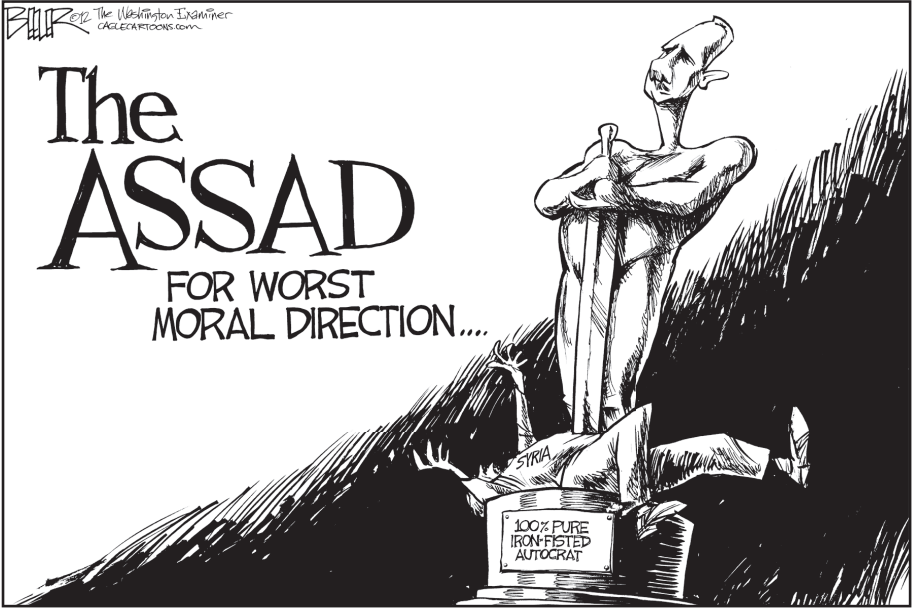
miles of campus.

When the Carolina Alert system sent out its first alert of the year, a test last month, we were amazed the system worked at all. Given its track record, many students were surprised, and some even joked about the fact that they were actually receiving a notification.

This is obviously not the reputation that Carolina Alert wants. Students should be able to trust their campus administrators when emergency conditions present themselves. But that trust is lacking. Time and time again, the alert system fails to do what its name implies — alert Carolina.

The standards clearly need to change. Carolina Alert should not just be a resource reserved for the most extreme cases; the system has the power to inform students of all types and levels of emergencies. Severe weather like South Carolina saw on Friday constitutes a good example. By engaging students more in terms of natural threats, more of us will trust Carolina Alert when — or, more hopefully, if — an even graver danger appears.

As it stands, Friday’s storms were another missed opportunity for Carolina Alert to prove itself. Its silence brings into question the very need for an emergency system if it fails to adequately inform students about campus threats. No students should have cause to joke about their university’s emergency services.



Letters: Citizens United v. FEC

FOR

AGAINST

Before 2010, news corporations poured billions of dollars into resources and airtime for candidates and thus determined front-runners and pertinent issues in elections. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission assured people’s input into this skewed system by allowing 501(c)(1) and 501(c)(4) organizations political speech.

Corporations are portrayed as greedy multinational establishments concerned only with profit, but most affected by the ruling are associations of like-minded people with a common purpose. Large media corporations overwhelm the individual voice, but smaller non-media corporations contribute a channel for individuals to speak to fellow citizens. They can uncover the political platform of a candidate that is not highlighted by mainstream media. The Sierra Club can advocate a candidate with solutions for environmental issues, while Fox News may not broadcast his stance. Even the most issue-savvy voter must be informed on the candidate, and third-party corporations can be relied on to provide accurate information when it aligns with their goals.

Corporations have the right to political speech because individuals have the right to associate and speak with their fellow citizens, who have the right to listen.

The ruling still upholds transparency and limits on direct funding to candidates. The intent of the ruling was not to drown individual voices, but to offer a powerful instrument of free speech.

— Runjhun Bhatia, healthy policy chair, Roosevelt Institute

Two years ago, the Supreme Court ruled in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that corporations have the right to fund their own projects that promote political campaigns. Their justifications were that corporations, which are legally defined as people, have First Amendment rights just as individuals do. This, however, deviates from the original intent of the term “person” in reference to a corporation.

Historically, owners were the only individuals tied to a business. As businesses grew in importance, the novel concept of a corporation allowed a business to outlive its owner and authorized certain other rights to ensure its longevity — leading to personhood.

Today, the literal corporate personification extends beyond the security of a business’s assets and longevity, which has serious repercussions. Studies show that the candidates who are featured most often in the media are likely to win an election simply because citizens are more familiar with them. With indirect corporate sponsorship, candidates can receive significantly more positive exposure and an unfair advantage.

The ruling propagates a political system where candidates are unofficially accountable to corporations rather than citizens. In order to maintain the integrity of the election process, the restrictions on corporate funding that existed before Citizens United v. FEC must return.

— Eeshwar Chandrasekar, vice president, Roosevelt Institute

Students should stay informed on voter laws

Requirements could impede registration

Since 2000, voter fraud has become even more of an issue during election time, and more than a dozen states have rapidly passed legislation to avoid it. The new laws have different restrictions and stipulations in their respective states. Some include modifications to registration periods, new absentee voter time restraints

and most famously, showing a valid state issue photo ID.



**Travis Banks**  
Third-year visual communications student

According to a New York University School of Law study, 11 percent of Americans do not have a government-issued ID.

Although the purpose of such legislation is to ensure integrity at the polls, the documented cases of fraud among voters may not be worth the costs. To successfully enforce these laws, states must provide citizens with proper photo IDs free of charge. South Carolina currently does this for citizens of voting age, but officials should also make sure that potential voters of all backgrounds — i.e., minority and rural populations — have the information necessary to seek these IDs.

The debate is endless. Many questions remain about the motives of some of these laws, particularly because of the inexplicable rush to get them passed before the 2012 election, but the central problem might be our outdated voting registration and election systems themselves.

Either way, it is important to know all of the new restrictions in your home state so that your vote will be counted and your voice will be heard. It is our responsibility to keep ourselves informed.

New study throws pipeline benefits in doubt

Republican claims skew actual numbers of economic impact, potential jobs

Last month President Barack Obama vetoed a congressional bill that would have authorized production of the Keystone XL pipeline. The veto caused mass hysteria, rallying both sides of the aisle around their polarized positions on the issue. Though temporarily stalled, the battle over the pipeline’s future is far from over. TransCanada and its congressional puppets have both vowed to push forward on the project, and there is another almost identical bill currently awaiting a vote. The harsh criticisms directed at the president for his veto are both politically-motivated and phony. Obama stood up to big oil and did what was best for the American people.

Congressional Republicans are justifying their support of the pipeline largely on a study conducted by TransCanada suggesting the project will create 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs, with a follow-up surge of 119,000 jobs in the time after the pipeline’s

construction. Though these jobs numbers are from a biased source, Republicans have proceeded to bash the president over the head, claiming he does not care about putting Americans to work.

“If job creation is the president’s top priority,” said Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, “then [Obama] should allow construction of the Keystone pipeline immediately.”

Despite the presence of a more accurate study conducted by Cornell University Global Labor Institute, Republicans choose to cite the former study because it lends credence to their argument. The study from Cornell found that the job estimates put forward by TransCanada are unsubstantiated.

The project will not only create fewer jobs than the company states, but the project could actually kill more jobs than it creates due to the risks inherent in expanding industry operations.

Republicans choose to ignore the fact that the

overwhelming majority of jobs created by the pipeline would be temporary and that more than 50 percent of manufacturing would be conducted overseas by non-American workers. Furthermore, no more than 2,500 to 4,650 temporary jobs would be created by the project.

There is no way to justify the immense environmental impact the project would have for a few thousand temporary jobs. The existing Keystone pipeline has spilled more than 12 times in a little over a year of operation. The XL pipeline would be much larger than this and would be prone to larger and more frequent spills.

The assertion by Republicans that this pipeline is what’s best for the American people is idiotic. We need to focus our efforts on more sustainable, environmentally friendly resources, rather than plundering what little we have and damaging our planet beyond repair. Fifty or a hundred years down the line, our environment will be vastly different. Our grandchildren will wish we had more leaders like Obama to stand up to greedy politicians.



**Carl Brzorad**  
Second-year psychology student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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# Mynabirds’ sophomore album sultry

Saddle Creek band prepares for release of ‘GENERALS’



Amanda Coyne  
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Laura Burhenn and her quirky collective of Omaha, Neb., musicians are back with the Mynabirds’ second album, “GENERALS”, due out June 5. The announcement came early last week along with a free download of the title track on label Saddle Creek Records’ website.

While lead singer Burhenn once again partnered with producer Richard Swift, who produced the Mynabirds’ 2010 debut, “What We Lose in the Fire We Gain in the Flood,” “GENERALS” is being billed as anything but a repeat performance.

While “What We Lose in the Fire We Gain in the Flood” featured Burhenn’s soulful crooning reminiscent of former labelmate Jenny Lewis layered over Motown-inspired piano and brass, “GENERALS” first single kicks off with a gritty guitar riff similar to the Black Keys circa “Brothers” and an energetic chorus of claps, which Saddle Creek’s release notes as a prevailing motif in the forthcoming record.

While Burhenn’s voice still has much of the soul showcased in the Mynabirds’ first album, there is something darker and sultrier about her sound on “Generals.” She’s acquired a smokier tone just short enough of rough to retain the dark yet smooth sweetness displayed on tracks like “What We Gained in the Fire” and “We Made a Mountain.”

The slight grit may be attributed to the subject matter of “GENERALS;” Saddle Creek has billed it as “a protest record and concept album ... fueled by a decade of Burhenn’s political frustration.” The political imagery can be clearly heard in “Generals,” by “calling on” Burhenn’s “generals” and asking, “how long have we paid our dues?”

Of course, “GENERALS” does not seem to be a complete departure from the Mynabirds’ sound; it still has the folk roots that characterize many Saddle Creek artists. Burhenn also spent most of 2011 playing keyboards on tour with fellow Saddle Creek band Bright Eyes, an indie-folk standby.

If the first single is any indication, the Mynabirds aren’t about to hit the dreaded sophomore slump — in fact, Burhenn and her musical collective have just begun to undergo what looks to be some tremendous growth that will lead to a promising future.



Courtesy of themynabirds.com  
Omaha, Neb.’s Laura Burhenn is the mastermind behind the pop, soul and country act Mynabirds. The band is beating the sophomore slump with the first single from “GENERALS.”

# USC student brings together rap, religion



Timothy Phipps meshes Christianity with Top 40 musical influences

Kristyn Winch  
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Worship comes in many forms — it can take shape as a traditional Sunday morning in a sanctuary of pews or a personal time of thoughtful, spiritual reflection. But for Timothy Phipps, music is his way of expressing his faith.

Phipps, a second-year criminal justice student, is making a name for himself in the local music scene by bringing positive lyrics and a Christian perspective to hip-hop and rap beats.

The student musician, who has made it his goal to corner an underrepresented genre in the city, said he has been writing music for “about a year and a half.” The first song he wrote was a gift for his girlfriend, but as he shared it with his friends and family, their reactions and encouragement motivated Phipps to write more.



“I really started seeing my talent,” Phipps said.

Although his taste in music has changed throughout his life — and he enjoys listening to a variety of musical genres — he never stopped listening to rap.

“I’ve gone from liking country to liking heavy metal, but one thing that always remained consistent was rap,” Phipps said. “Rap was always in my life in some way and it is a love of mine.”

Rap was Phipps’ motivation, the passion and foot-in in the industry, but the other half of his act is built on a larger principle. The Christian rapper said that when it comes to his music, he writes and performs it for God, not for the money.

“I figured out that God gave me the talent to rap. I am using my music for him and not for anything else,” Phipps said. “I write about God and how he’s helped me in my life. I use music to glorify Him.”

Phipps is just getting his start in the world of live performances, but he has played about five gigs at local churches and youth rallies around South Carolina, including performances in the Charleston area and his hometown of Florence. He plans to perform at more youth rallies in the near future.

The songster has two gigs on campus this Wednesday with an outdoor show on Greene

Street at 1:30 p.m. and a 6 p.m. opening for a comedy show in the Russell House Theatre. The campus performances will be Phipps’ Columbia debut, and he is excited to share his music with the Carolina community.

These shows will introduce the student songster as a rap artist not only to Columbia, but also to his group of friends. Phipps said most of his friends have not heard him rap before, and although he has recorded between five and 10 tracks, he hasn’t put out a CD yet.

A few of Phipps’ songs are remixes of secular, top-40 songs with new, original lyrics interwoven into the favorites. A remix of “Fly” by Nicki Minaj and Rihanna featuring new lyrics by Phipps is posted on the artist’s YouTube channel, youtube.com/TJPOfficial.

Phipps plans to release a mixtape or CD once he gains a larger fan base. But even though Phipps is serious about his music, he plans to continue with college while recording and performing.

“I’m not the kind of person who is going to quit school to do music,” Phipps said. “I want to get my degree.”

To learn more about Phipps’ music, visit his Facebook fan page (listed as TJP) and follow him on Twitter @TJPMusic.



# Spring Break: Last-minute road trips on a college dime

*Blue Ridge, Elton John make for quick plans*

**Chloe Gould**  
CGOULD@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

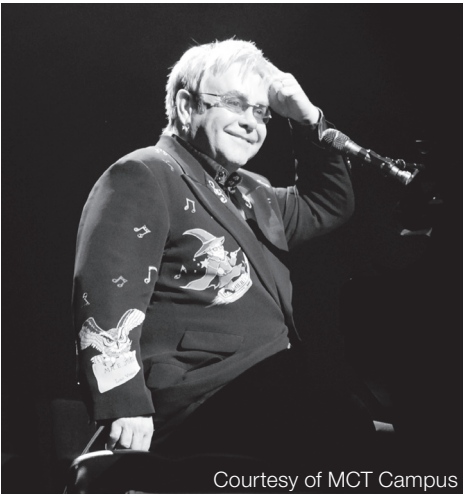
It's a booze-filled beach trip to stretches of warm, spring sand and salty breeze, a roommate road trip to a city far away from home or a plane ride to the tropical and untraveled dream destination. It's spring break, and from the tourist traps of Myrtle Beach to the elegance of the all-inclusive island resort, it's a time away from the books and the busy of USC. And even though you've pushed planning until the very last minute, The Mix is here with perfectly crafted vacation packages for your week of university freedom.

1. **Blue Ridge Mountains — Blue Ridge, Ga.**  
Distance from Columbia: 239 miles, 4 hours & 24 minutes  
Length of Stay: 7 days  
Total Cost: \$320 (Gas & Lodging)

Grab your flannel, fishing pole and best pair of hiking boots; it's mountain week in the heart of Georgia's Blue Ridge. The gorgeous stretch of North Georgia ridge sets the perfect scene for a serene spring break full of fresh air, outdoor decks and casual mountainside hikes. Lodging is up to the campers, with everything from the ultimate tent and tilapia outdoor experience to a fully furnished, gourmet lake house stay. Prices at the Blue Ridge Lodge, just one of many accommodations, start at \$250 for a week's stay at the on-site lodge or cottage, while a host of area campgrounds offer a weeklong mountain retreat on a tighter dime. For more information on lodging in the mountains, as well as other outdoor activities for your North Georgia break, visit blueridgemountains.com.

2. **Concert Calendar — North Carolina, South Carolina, North Georgia**  
Distance from Columbia: 1 hours and 20 minutes - 3 hours  
Total Cost: \$56 - \$550 (Tickets)

From a candle in the wind to a brand new pair of "Nike Boots," the Carolinas' concert calendar is bringing out the big names for the week of break. Everyone from the beloved and extravagant Sir Elton John to hip-hop's Wale is gracing North Carolina, South Carolina and North Georgia



Courtesy of MCT Campus

with shows fit for a short and well-worth-it road trip. "The Outsiders" rockers Needtobreathe (\$67-\$200) and Wale (\$151-\$200) will kick off the week's lineup on Friday at Ovens Auditorium and The Fillmore, respectively, in Charlotte, N.C. Trey Songz (\$77-\$122) will take the Greensboro, N.C. stage Sunday with Big Sean, and the legendary Elton John (\$56-\$550) will be in Augusta, Ga. on Tuesday, March 6. Others in town starting at the end of this week: Diana Ross, Art Garfunkel, J Cole, Big Time Rush and Mayday Parade.



Courtesy of Needtobreathe

Elton John (top) will be playing in Augusta, Ga. on Tuesday, March 6 and Christian rockers Needtobreathe (bottom) will be at the Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte Friday.

3. **Habitat for Humanity — Charleston, S.C.**  
Distance from Columbia: 2 hours  
Total Cost: \$35 (Gas)

It's labeled the alternative spring break: a week of self-sacrificing manual labor, which renews in a slightly more meaningful way than umbrella drinks and perfectly executed, or avoided, tan lines. The week-long trips to third world countries, and even East Coast cities, can run a pretty penny. But there are smaller-scale projects that can transform one weekend of break into a chance to give back. Although there is a Habitat for Humanity based in Columbia, the Charleston, S.C. locale can lend itself to a beach weekend, with an added element. The shore site's ongoing project "A Brush With Kindness" accepts volunteers with a waiver, available online. And if the trip's just not in the cards, there are even shorter term commitments right here in Columbia. Check out the Washington Street Soup Cellar, Oliver Gospel Mission and Transitions.

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THE SCENE

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9 p.m., free  
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HOROSCOPES

Aries

Get ready for another great learning experience. Your ability to concentrate will be enhanced marvelously for the next two days. Resist the temptation to splurge.

Leo

Little successes add up. Enjoy gorgeous moments. Your good manners gain you brownie points. Network socially, and spread the good vibes around.

Sagittarius

There's gain without pain, although it does require discipline. You can be very convincing now, and move forward with celerity. Don't dodge the acknowledgement.

Taurus

Edit the presentation again for clarity and brevity. You're entering a two-day domestic phase. Get practical, and watch for a new source of inspiration.

Virgo

Writing, recording and communications go well today. Prepare in private for the attention that's coming later. Go over planning and schedules. Edit the speech down to it's most powerful form.

Gemini

An antique figures into your plans. Go over financial information with an expert. Step into the spotlight, and let it rip. Sing out for what you care about.

Libra

You're probably thinking about it too much. Trust your instincts for a brilliant solution. Be open to new ideas, even if they seem crazy.

Cancer

Speak, email and send your messages out. You may be under a bit more pressure. Slow down and think it over. Let your partner choose the color.

Scorpio

You don't have to do the boring stuff. Delegate to someone who's better than you at that, and focus on what you do best. Reward with rest and relaxation.

Pisces

You find new answers to old questions. You're motivated to take action. You're imaginative, inspired and just plain lucky. Take a step.

Aquarius

Solving problems comes easily, especially when you let your higher sense prevail. Creativity flows, and it's so romantic ... share it with someone interesting.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

02/28/12

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ACROSS

1 Auctions  
12 Counterproductive "Get Smart" apparatus  
14 Poster-mounting aid  
16 White and black pawns, e.g.  
17 "The Da Vinci Code" monk  
18 Filet mignon sources  
19 Zoo feature  
23 Some peculiarities  
24 [More on next pg.]  
25 Tierney of "E.R."  
26 Mother of divine twins, in Greek myth  
27 Twin who adopted the surname Bunker  
28 Student employees, usually  
30 Ruby or tawny drinks  
31 Where some washers are kept  
33 See 32-Down  
36 Dogpatch creator  
37 Conical brewing equipment  
38 Tendency  
39 Fivers  
40 Retired boomers  
41 One who's been rubbed out?  
42 Nebraska tribe  
44 French enforcement unit  
45 2006 Cate Blanchett film  
50 Classic 1913 novel called "the tragedy of thousands of young men in England" by its author  
51 1983 best-seller with a misspelled title word  
DOWN  
1 Looking grumpy  
2 Straightened  
3 Shots taken quickly  
4 '50s Dodger pitcher Billy  
5 Hypotheticals  
6 CBS ratings giant  
7 Rocker Vicious  
8 One might be blonde  
9 Watch readouts, briefly  
10 Qualifies  
11 More reptilian, in a way  
12 Silkworm's protection  
13 Solar year/lunar year differentials  
14 Sweetly, in some suites  
15 Brand with a tiger mascot, once  
19 \_\_ Vineyard  
20 Where many homesteaders headed  
21 Museum VIPs  
22 Besmirches  
25 Aquino's predecessor  
28 Race competitor  
29 Marzo, por ejemplo  
30 Billboard magazine's milieu  
31 Things to avoid  
32 With 33-Across, common tourist transport  
33 Drought-stricken

Solutions for 02/27/12

M	A	M	A	B	O	M	B	S	A	D	U	E
A	V	E	R	A	R	T	O	O	M	O	P	S
R	A	K	E	S	I	N	S	P	L	I	N	T
I	T	O	S	S	N	S	H	I	N	T	O	
S	A	N	G	H	I	G	H		S	O	M	N
A	R	G	U	E	S	O	C	K	P	R	O	O
			R	E	F	T	H	E	V	W	S	
			S	U	R	L	Y	T	E	M	P	L
P	L	Y		E	E	E		P	R	O		
S	A	L	L	O	W	H	A	L	A	R	U	B
A	C	L	I	P		S	E	A	D	E	V	I
Q	A	T	A	R	I	I	S	A	L	E	O	
S	U	B	T	L	E	C	O	C	K	M	A	R
P	E	L	L		B	A	D	A	T	Y	M	C
F	R	E	E		A	N	D	S	O	A	P	E

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By The Mephram Group

02/28/12

	1					6		
6		2		1				
								5
4					7	5	8	
		8	5		4	2		
	3	5	2					4
9			3		6			
				5		9		3
	7						4	

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play  
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 02/27/12

9	8	2	5	4	3	1	7	6
1	3	4	6	9	7	2	8	5
7	6	5	8	1	2	9	3	4
2	7	6	4	5	1	3	9	8
3	1	8	2	6	9	5	4	7
4	5	9	3	7	8	6	1	2
8	2	7	1	3	5	4	6	9
6	9	3	7	2	4	8	5	1
5	4	1	9	8	6	7	2	3

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# Softball sweeps weekend slate

**Shortstop Samie Garcia went 4-for-4 against Presbyterian College**

**Chris Stanley**  
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The South Carolina softball team would not be overshadowed by the USC baseball team in its home games this weekend.

Rain canceled the Friday opener against Elon, but the Gamecocks had no problem starting a day off-schedule in the Gamecock Invitational. They took the weekend with a 4-2 win over George Washington after beating Appalachian State and Presbyterian College 7-4 and 8-1, respectively, on Saturday.

The win against Presbyterian was the most impressive of the Gamecocks' three weekend games. Seven players crossed home plate for USC and four different players drove in runs. The Gamecocks scored a run in every inning but the first and were one run shy of applying the mercy rule to PC.

"I thought our defense played very well today, holding the other teams to low scoring games," said head coach Beverly Smith. "Offensively we did a great job getting our leadoff runners on and making things happen from

there."

PC didn't fare quite so well on defense, allowing 12 hits, six earned runs and two more runs off an error. The Blue Hose also used two pitchers during the course of the game.

South Carolina, on the other hand, would receive a strong performance out of freshman pitcher Katelyn Howser. Howser pitched a complete game, allowing one run on two hits and striking out 10. This was the first double-digit strikeout game for Gamecock softball since February of 2010. Howser's day wasn't completely perfect however, as she would walk eight batters, one shy of the school record for walks in a game.

"I thought it was good that she threw a complete game and she had a lot of strikeouts that were nice," Smith said. "She had way too many walks though. She left way too many people on and she is better than that."

Offensively the Gamecocks were led by junior shortstop Samie Garcia, who went 4-for-4 to improve her team-high average to .457. As leadoff hitter, she would also drive in the first run of the game in the second inning and add with a stolen base in the fourth.

"I just made a conscious effort to be aggressive and really focus," Garcia said. "Whenever I lead off an inning I always try to just get on top of the

ball and it just really worked out for me today."

Garcia showed great resilience at the plate as well. She was called out on two of her at-bats and had both outs overturned by illegal pitches by PC. When given a second opportunity, Garcia produced base hits both times.

"We just really focus on one thing and really work on hitting the ball up the middle as much as we can," Garcia said. "I think when you do that, it will all come together in the games."

Garcia wasn't the only one to hit perfectly against PC. Junior catcher Shelby Gonzales went 2-for-2 with her first career home run in the fifth inning and another RBI single in the sixth. Third basemen Evan Childs, a senior, went 2-for-3 with a two-run homer in the fourth. Senior centerfielder Lauren Lackey also turned in a productive day. She went 3-for-4 with a run scored.

"If one person gets on top of the ball and lines it out it will become contagious," Garcia said. "When everyone jumps on the bandwagon you'll see good thing happen."

South Carolina (10-3, 0-0) will hope to take their weekend momentum into tonight's double-header against Charleston Southern (9-4, 0-0).

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Beth Revelle / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**The Gamecocks will face Charleston Southern today after tallying three-straight wins in the Gamecock Invitational this weekend.**

# Men's tennis opens facility with win

*Gamecocks beat Furman, Charlotte in new outdoor center*

**Mario Cuadros**  
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

South Carolina's men's tennis team opened the new Carolina Tennis Center with a double-header sweep against the Furman Paladins and the Charlotte 49ers. The Gamecocks looked dominant in both matches as they won by a score of 6-1 against both teams.

Coach Josh Goffi expressed the team's enthusiasm by saying the men were "ecstatic" to play at the new tennis center. They didn't disappoint as they came out of the gate with a lot of energy.

Against the Paladins, South Carolina (10-1) raced through the doubles matches, sweeping all three to earn them an important doubles point. Senior Ivan Machado and sophomore Chip Cox took on a tough doubles team featuring Joel Cook and Alex Christ, who are ranked No. 49 in the nation. They got a break on the Paladins duo's second service game and didn't surrender it, clinching an 8-5 victory. The other doubles matches didn't take too much longer. Freshmen Andrew Adams and Thiago Pinheiro won their match 8-5, and Kyle Koch teamed up with Ben Barnette to give the Gamecocks the doubles sweep, winning 8-6 and

giving South Carolina a leg up going into the singles matches.

Freshman Benjamin Barnette had an impressive match at the No. 6 position with a 6-0, 6-1 win, which gave the Gamecocks an early 2-0 lead.

Chip Cox followed with a strong showing against highly-touted freshman Jacob Behal. After a grueling first set that Cox won 6-3, he was able to break Behal's serve in the first game of the second set and again in the fourth. Cox closed out the match winning the second set 6-2.

At the No. 5 position, freshman Carl Eguez got a service break on the first game of the second set after being in control all through the first, winning it 6-1. With the set tied at 2-2 and the Gamecocks needing one more point for the victory, Eguez broke Robbie Aru's serve for the second time and managed to hold from then on, winning the set 6-3 and giving the Gamecocks their first win at the new stadium.

"It was a great experience for our players in their first match at this great facility," Goffi said. "The team came out and took care of things in doubles right away. We had a few struggles on the singles end, but we'll get that ironed out for the next match."

On the back end of the doubleheader, the Gamecocks took on the rested 49ers. The Gamecocks came out with



Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**USC senior Ivan Machado lost in singles to Furman, but came back against Charlotte, giving his team a 3-1 lead in the match.**

high intensity, sweeping the doubles point and giving them all the momentum they would need to cruise to another win.

Adams was the first to finish his singles match; he beat Alex Calott 6-1, 6-1 and kept the momentum on the Gamecocks' side. Cox lost in back-to-back sets, giving the 49ers their first and only point of the match.

Machado was able to come back from an earlier loss against Furman by winning a hard-fought match against Jack Williams 6-4, 6-4, giving the Gamecocks a 3-1 lead.

"It was great to see Ivan bounce back after a tough loss in the first match today," Goffi said. "He competed extremely well against a good player, and we look

forward to seeing what he can bring next week."

Koch was able to maintain a high level of play after his three-set match earlier in the day, winning 6-4, 6-4 and giving the Gamecocks the match-clinching point.

"One of our goals was to be 10-1 going into SEC play, so our team is confident getting ready for the tough schedule ahead," Goffi said. "This young team is still learning how to compete the way we'll need to in order to be successful against SEC opponents. The maturity of four freshmen is growing exponentially with each match. Today we had two matches where that group definitely got better."

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## Women's tennis beats in-state foes Cougars, Eagles

**USC continues momentum from Clemson victory**

**Chris Stanley**  
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The South Carolina women's tennis team got its last taste of out-of-conference play this weekend by beating in-state opponents College of Charleston and Winthrop both 6-1. The team will look to take its five-match winning streak into this weekend's conference play on the road against Georgia on Friday and Kentucky on Sunday.

Last Friday the No. 26 Gamecocks made easy work of the Cougars, defeating them 6-1 and starting out the match 6-0. USC's ranked duo of junior Anya Morgina and senior Jaklin Alawi picked up right where they left off against Clemson by winning their singles matches in straight sets and their doubles match 8-2.

"I thought we played very well for the given circumstances," said assistant head coach Katarina Petrovic. "[Jaklin] and Anya both came out and were in control. They played focused and clinched their matches in about an hour."

With USC up 3-0, the match clinching game rested on the shoulders of sophomore Dominika Kanakova, who defeated CofC's Caroline Newman in straight sets. Sophomore Katerina Popova also turned in a good and dramatic performance Friday. After she and junior Adriana Pereira sealed the doubles sweep with their 8-5 victory, Popova played through the first three-set match of the day.

After falling behind early by losing the first set 4-6, Popova rallied back in the second 7-5 for a third set. In it, Popova lost the first two games, only to win the next nine of 11 and take her match to put her team up 5-0.

"Even when the trainer had come by to look at my ankle, I told her I wasn't going to lose this match," Popova said. "I was able to pull through the second set thanks to all of those who were around supporting me. When the third set came I decided to do the third set like I did the second and I won."

Sunday also brought the Winthrop Eagles a 6-1 defeat.

In doubles play, Alawi and Morgina won their match 8-6 to remain undefeated as a team this season. Popova and junior Josefin Andersson won the second doubles match for the Gamecocks' first match point.

The Gamecocks failed to sweep the doubles as they did on Friday and last four matches went into a third set.

In singles play, Winthrop surprised early with Ekin Gunaysu's straight sets victory over Andersson. With the score tied at 1-1, first-time starter Dina Guzairova defeated Monica Aguado in straight sets.

"Overall energy was low but that's understandable when you play three matches in five days," Petrovic said. "We still managed to win against Winthrop, (which) is a very good team, and this was still a very good win for us."

Guzairova spoke to the significance of the victory to the team's psyche.

"It was very nice to finally win and I was proud to see how hard our team worked today," Guzairova said. "It's always important to get wins when your team needs them and it's important to know that if you lose that someone will have your back to help the team win."

Guzairova's victory led to four straight wins by Kanakova, Popova, Alawi and Morgina and put the Gamecocks on top 6-1. The four Europeans combined to go 24-5 in their third-set games to seal their team's victory.

Looking ahead, the Gamecocks (7-1, 0-0) will get their first conference tests when they head to Athens Friday to face the No. 6 Georgia Bulldogs (10-1, 0-0) and Knoxville Sunday to face the Kentucky Wildcats (8-3, 0-0). Georgia is coming off of a 7-0 win over No. 17 Clemson while Kentucky has dropped its last two matches.

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